

We are Better Together



February 15th & 16th 2014

The average person has 2 close friends

Ecclesiastes 4:12 By yourself you're unprotected. With a friend you can face the worst. Can you round up a third? A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped. ***New International Version***

We are Better Together

We are convinced that life is not meant to be lived alone, and we are committed to building a culture of authentic community. We recognize our innate need for each other, and we create environments to connect in a real way. (Eccl 4:9-12, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 2:42, Proverbs 27:17)

Christian disciples are the result of rows and circles

We exist to see a city connected with God

Fan, Friend, Follower

Matthew 28:18 Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. **19** Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **20** and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age." ***Good News Bible***

The Bible on rows and circles

Ephesians 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, **12 to prepare** God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ***New International Version***

Ephesians 4:12 His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the saints (His

consecrated people), **[that they should do]** the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), *Amplified Bible*

Ephesians 4:13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. *New International Version*

The 20\20 principle

Acts 20:20 You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you **publicly** and from **house to house**. *New International Version*

Acts 2:42 They **devoted themselves** to the apostles' teaching and to **fellowship**, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. *New International Version*

Acts 2:46 Every day they continued to **meet together** in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate **together** with **glad and sincere hearts**, **47** praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the **Lord added to their number daily** those who were being saved. *New International Version*

Why People don't Connect in Groups

1. Ignorance

I didn't know they were important

"Truth does not cease to exist because it's unknown."

Hosea 4:6 my people are destroyed from lack of knowledge ... *New International Version*

2. Deception

I don't need any more people in my life

Hebrews 10:24 And let us consider how **we may spur one another** on toward love and good deeds, **25** not giving up **meeting together**, as some are in the habit of doing but **encouraging one another**— and all the more as you see the Day approaching. *New International Version*

Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. *New International Version*

3. Fear

I get nervous meeting new people

Philippians 4:13 For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength. ***New Living Translation-SE***

4. Past Experiences

Someone tried to take advantage of me or hurt me; I won't allow that to happen again

Philippians 3:13 No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be, but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: **Forgetting the past** and looking forward to what lies ahead, ***Living Bible***

5. Busyness

I don't have time for one more thing

Luke 14:33 "Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple. ***Message Bible***

1 John 3:16 We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So **we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters.** ***New Living Translation-SE***